

Remarks

Claims 1, 2, 4-15 and 22-27 were pending in the present application, from which claims 5, 10-15, 22 and 23 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims define allowable subject matter.

Initially, the Examiner is thanked for indicating claim 23 to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The limitations of claims 23 have been added to claim 1. Claims 1-2, 4-9 and 22 have been rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Mimata. It is submitted that the above claim amendments render moot the rejection of claims 1-2, 4-9 and 22.

Claim 26 has been rejected under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. The undersigned respectfully traverse this rejection. It is submitted that the original specification does support claim 26, namely that the installation and extraction mechanisms simultaneously engage and support opposite first and second surfaces of the circuit board. As evidence of such support, attention is directed to Figures 8 and 9 which clearly illustrate that the installation and extraction mechanisms simultaneously engage and support first and second surfaces of the circuit board. In addition, attention is directed to paragraph 22 of the specification which also states that installation and extraction mechanisms 108 and 110 support the surfaces 112 and 114 of the mother board 106 as the connector 104 is installed or removed. The foregoing are only a few examples of the support afforded to claim 26. Notwithstanding, to facilitate prosecution, the word simultaneously has been omitted from claim 26. It is submitted that claim 26 in its original form (and as now presented) satisfies 35 USC 112, first paragraph.

Claim 25 and 27 have been rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. The undersigned respectfully submits that claims 25 and 27 are definite. First, regarding claim 25, the specification clearly sets forth at paragraph 20 that the tool 102 supports the mother board 104 from above and below during installation and removal of the connector 104 and thus prevents flexure or bowing of the board. Also, when Figure 9 is considered, it is clear that the installation and extraction mechanisms align with one another to cover the first and second surfaces of the circuit board as claimed. Thus, it is submitted that claim 25 is definite.

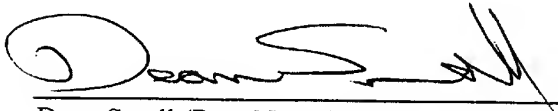
Regarding claim 27, the above claim amendment is believed to remove any antecedent basis issue.

Finally, it is submitted that the above claim amendments should be entered after final as these amendments do not raise new issues, nor warrant further searching. The amendments to claim 1 simply add the limitations of allowed dependent claim 23, while the remaining claim amendments address minor issues raised in the Outstanding Office Action. Thus, entry of this amendment is respectfully requested and a favorable action on the merits is appropriate.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims define allowable subject matter. Should anything remain in order to place the present application in condition for allowance, the examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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